

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4669
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2000
DELHI IN SEISMIC ZONE
JAYASHREE BANERJEE

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Delhi is prone to tremors with intensity as high as eight on the Richter Scale;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to enforce earthquake safety norms;
- (c) whether there is a need to upgrade the earthquake resistance of the existing buildings, particularly Schools, Hospitals, Water Tanks, Power Houses; and
- (d) if so, whether there is an immediate need to enact a law to make earthquake safety norms binding on all the buildings?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

- (a) Sir, as per the seismic zoning map of the country, Delhi lies in seismic zone IV, which is likely to experience earthquake of intensity VIII on Modified Mercalli Scale.
- (b) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation through BMTPC (Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council) is taking various initiatives to create awareness about, disseminate information on, and promote disaster resistant construction technologies (as per the guidelines of Bureau of Indian Standards) amongst the practicing architects, design engineers, builders etc., so that the necessary measures suggested in Indian Standards code and guidelines on earthquake resistant construction may be taken into consideration in the design and construction of new buildings.
- (c) The buildings built by various public agencies in Delhi are normally designed as per the Indian Standards and Codes of Practice and are considered safe. The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation had sometime back constituted a high level Expert Group to identify vulnerable areas with reference to earthquakes, cyclones and floods in the country. The Expert Group has prepared a Vulnerability Atlas of India and formulated recommendations necessary for prevention and reduction of damage to housing and other buildings in different states and U.Ts including Delhi. Ministry of Urban Development and BMTPC have advised that these recommendations should be followed.
- (d) In view of the above, such action is desirable.